

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 DODE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 L-02 (ISO) W

----- 000206

R 020925Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9005

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11101

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, US, XT, UR

SUBJECT: 97 EXBD SOVIET WWII VICTORY COMMEMORATION AT
UNESCO

REFS: (A) PARIS 6877; (B) STATE 69945

1. REFTTEL A REPORTED SOLID INFORMATION RECEIVED BY
PERMDEL THAT SOVIETS WOULD SEEK UNESCO COMMEMORATION OF
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII'S END BY FOLLOWING: (A) FILMS,
RECEPTIONS, AND SPECIAL EXHIBITION IN CONTEXT MAY 5-27
MEETING IN PARIS OF UNESCO'S 40 NATION-MEMBER EXECUTIVE
BOARD; (B) AS WELL AS COMMEMORATIVE ITEM ON BOARD AGENDA
AND (C) MOST IMPORTANTLY, IN TERMS CONTINUING IMPACT,
LIKELY PROPOSAL OF SPECIAL ISSUE OF UNESCO MONTHLY
"COURIER" AND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN ADDITION OTHER
ACTIVITIES UTILIZING DOLLARS \$15,000 ALLOCATED IN UNESCO
REGULAR BUDGET IN COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES. FROM START
OF SOVIET INITIATIVE THIS EVENT AT UNESCO
GENERAL CONFERENCE LAST NOVEMBER, SOVIETS HAVE DEMON-
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STRATED LITTLE CONCERN FOR VIEWS OF THEIR WARTIME ALLIES.

2. WHILE REFTTEL B STATES US AGREEMENT TO SELECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF FRG "FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR NATO ALLIES", APRIL 29 MEETING OF UNESCO GENEVA GROUP (AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, UK AND JAPAN; SWITZERLAND AND SWEDEN) INDICATED THAT NONE OF UNESCO PERMREPS OF WWII ALLIES WERE AWARE OF SUCH CONTACTS.

3. IN DISCUSSING WHAT COMMON REACTION SHOULD BE TO INCREASING NUMBER OF SOVIET-EE INVITATIONS TO COMMEMORATIVE CONCERTS, FILMS, ART EXHIBITS AT UNESCO, PERMDELS OF UK, GOF, GON, GOI, GOA AND UK INDICATED ALTHOUGH THEY NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS BUT HAVE SO FAR CHOSEN TO "IGNORE" INVITATIONS. JAPANESE PERMREP, WHEN ASKED, EXPRESSED GOJ "PREFERENCE" THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES NOT PARTICIPATE FRG DEPUTY PERMREP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WILL LIMIT THEIR PARTICIPATION TO HONORING THE DEAD WHO FELL ON ALL SIDES. BELGIANS AND CANADIANS WERE EVASIVE; INDICATING ONLY THAT CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH WOULD BE TAKEN. US PERMREP WAS ALONE IN EXPRESSING GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE ALBEIT WITH CLOSE ATTENTION TO THEMES AND AT LOWER LEVEL OF DELOFF THAT WOULD REPRESENT PERMDEL.

4. INDEED HAD IT BEEN FORMALLY PROPOSED, IT CERTAIN THAT GENEVA GROUP WOULD HAVE READILY AGREED ON ABSTENTION FROM WWII MEMORIAL ACTIVITIES CONSISTENT WITH VOTING ON INITIAL SOVIET RESOLUTION (14.1) AT UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE. LATTER PASSED BY 36 VOTES (UNESCO HAS 135 MEMBERS) TO 11 AGAINST (INCLUDING US, UK, FRANCE, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, ISRAEL) AND 45 ABSTENTIONS (AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, ITALY, FRG, CANADA AND PRC) AND 43 ABSENT.

5. GENEVA GROUP REACHED GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT SEEMINGLY CERTAIN SOVIET DRAFT RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED AT NEXT SESSION OF EXBD DOES NOT OBTAIN UNESCO BACKING FOR SLANTED COMMEMORATION OF WWII. PERMDEL CONSIDERS INVITATION RECONFIDENTIAL

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CEIVED TODAY FROM SOVIETS TO ATTEND MAY 9 EXHIBITION ON "THE SOVIET PEOPLE DURING THE GREAT NATIONAL WAR" (SIC) AS SUGGESTIVE OF SOVIET INTENTION TO GLORIFY USSR WARTIME PARTICIPATION WITH ONLY MINOR, PASSING MENTION OF OTHER ALLIES. UK PERMDEL SAYS HMG BELIEVES SOVIETS WILL DEFINE WAR'S SPAN AS 1941-45; FRG NOTES THAT SOVIETS CELEBRATING ONLY END OF WWII IN EUROPE (MAY, 1945) BUT NOT IN ASIA. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09 L-02 DODE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 (ISO) W
----- 000192

R 020925Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9006

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 11101

WRYLY OBSERVED THAT UNFORTUNATELY PERIOD 1939-41 BEING
IGNORED AND REGRETTE LOSS OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEMORATE
MOIOTOV-VON RIBBENTROP PACT OF SEPTEMBER 1939.

6. PERMDEL CONSIDERS ABOVE AS INDICATIVE THAT DEPT'S
OBJECTIVE STATED REFTEL B OF PARTICIPATING IN CEREMONIES
IN ACCORDANCE "DETENTE INTERESTS" BUT OF AVOIDING
"OFFENSE TO FRG AND ALSO BE CONSISTENT WITH ATTITUDES"
OF WWII WESTERN ALLIES MAY PROVE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO
ACCOMPLISH. MOREOVER PERMDEL WOULD UNDERLINE SPECIAL
CONSIDERATION OF USE OF UN AGENCY FORUM AND FUNDS TO
ADVANCE SOVIET PROPAGANDA INITIATIVE AS DISTINCT FROM
BI-LATERAL COMMEMORATIONS IN WHICH CONTENT AND THEMES
OF ACTIVITIES MORE EASILY CONTROLLED.

7. PERMDEL WOULD NOTE PRC OPPOSITION TO WWII ACTIVITIES
WHICH IN RECENT INFORMAL CONTACTS CHINESE HAVE TERMED
"SOVIET PROPAGANDA". PRC DENOUNCED SOVIET PROPOSAL OF
SPECIAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF UNESCO PUBLICATIONS TO

HAVE "SERIES OF MONOGRAPHS" ON THE WAR.

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8. PERMDEL REQUESTS BROAD DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO COUNTER WHAT NOW SEEMS TO BE LIKELY SOVIET EFFORTS AT UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD TO EXPLOIT 30TH V-E DAY TO EXCLUSIVE SOVIET ADVANTAGE. PERMDEL PROPOSES TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH OTHER WWII ALLIES ON EXBD AS WELL AS ITALIAN AND JAPANESE BOARD MEMBERS TO DEVELOP AMENDMENTS, ALTERNATE TEXTS OR PROPOSALS AS OCCASION MAY REQUIRE TO ENSURE BALANCED AND HOPEFULLY FORWARD LOOKING TREATMENT SUCH AS BIRTH OF UN SYSTEM.

9. PLEASE ADVISE AND PROVIDE TALKING POINTS FOR POSSIBLE STATEMENT DURING COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY SCHEDULED MAY 9 AT EXBD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS11101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750154-0594
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750586/aaaadawl.tel
Line Count: 192
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 6877, 75 STATE 69945
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 97 EXBD SOVIET WWII VICTORY COMMEMORATION AT UNESCO
TAGS: PORG, OCON, US, XT, UR, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006